

Washington, DC-Today Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) voted in the Full House for the passage of HR 1, *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, critical legislation to create and save 3 to 4 million American jobs which will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was approved by a vote of 244-188. This job creation package will rebuild America, making us more globally competitive and energy independent, and transforming our economy for long-term growth; give 95 percent of American workers an immediate tax cut; and invest quickly in the economy.

"Today, we took the first step in delivering a plan to implement President Obama's vision to get the economy back on track," said Rodriguez. "Action on this economic recovery package will create American jobs now, lay a foundation for long-term growth through clean energy, innovation and education, with strict accountability measures to ensure that taxpayers dollar are spent wisely and effectively."

Passage of this economic package will mean real change by rebuilding America's roads and bridges and providing a tax cut to 95 percent of American workers. Now Congress must come together to act and finish the job of sending this job creation and economic recovery package to President Obama in short order."

This jobs and economic recovery plan contains targeted efforts in:

- Transforming Our Economy With Clean, Efficient, American Energy and Innovation and Technology that will create more than 1 million jobs;
- Lowering Health Care Costs by funding aggressive adoption of health information technology, which will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, and Broadening Coverage by helping those who cannot afford health care in these tough times.;
- Modernizing Roads, Bridges, Transit and Waterways to create 1.5 million American jobs;
- Education for the 21st Century, including an increased Pell Grant for 514,748 students in Texas and a higher education tax credit for an additional 346,000 students in Texas so that they can stay in college despite these tough times;
- Tax Cuts of up to \$1,000 to Make Work pay for 7,981,000 families in Texas and more than \$20 billion for American businesses, large and small, to spur job creation;
- Helping Workers Hurt by the Economy, including 711,800 of Texans that are out of work, those who have lost their health care, and seniors; and

- Saving the Jobs of Teachers and Police Officers.

"A new administration has sought better oversight, more accountability and a better economy through this bill," continued Rodriguez. "We must work together to create jobs, fix our infrastructure, and find both long and short term solutions to the many problems we face."

The Recovery Plan has unprecedented accountability measures built in-providing strong oversight, an historic degree of public transparency, and including no earmarks.

This jobs and recovery plan will create an estimated 301,450 jobs by the end of 2010 and reduce the unemployment rate by 1.6% in Texas, according to leading independent economist Mark Zandi of Moody's Economy.com. To ensure that these job creation goals are met, the Obama Administration has pledged that 75 percent of these job creating investments will get into the economy in the next 18 months.